

Add the following new claims 19 through 27.

19. (New) A method for detecting particles in a sample comprising;
placing a fluid sample into a sedimentation container containing a slanted solid
phase at a location above the slanted solid phase,
sedimenting particles in a sample across the slanted solid phase where the solid
phase contains at least two different immobilized binding agents, each capable of binding
to different particles in the sample, and
detecting particles bound to at least one of the binding agents,
wherein the slanted solid phase is slanted with respect to a sedimentation path.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein each different binding agent is
immobilized on different areas on the solid phase.

21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said sedimenting comprises centrifuging
the sample.

22. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein at least part of the container contains
a density gradient during sedimentation.

23. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the particles are cells or fragments
thereof.

24. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the particles include at least one type
of microorganism.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the microorganism is a virus.

26. (New) The method of claim 19 further comprising adding a specific binding
agent either to the particles in the liquid sample or to the particles bound to the solid
phase.